What is claimed is:

1.   An apparatus for simulating the functionality of a gatekeeper entity in a Local Area
Network (LAN) telephony system, comprising:

a LAN telephony platform adapted to provide lower layer communications including

5   an interface to said LAN telephony network, an IP communications stack and
           an H.323 protocol stack;

an event processor adapted to process event messages received from and transmitted
           to said LAN telephony network;

an IP phone table comprising an event table portion and an action table portion, said

10   event table adapted to generate a response ID in response to one or more fields
           in the received event messages;

a response script table comprising a plurality of responses to events, said response
           script table operative to generate a response in accordance with said response
           ID and to forward said response to said event processor for transmission to

15   said LAN telephony network;

an action scanner adapted to loop through the contents of said action table such that
           for each valid action within said action table, an action ID is generated;

an action script table comprising a plurality of actions to be performed, said action
           script table operative to generate an action in accordance with said action ID

20   and to forward said action to said event processor for subsequent processing;
           and

a user interface for permitting a user to preprogram the contents of said event table,
           said action table, said response script table and said action script table and to
           configure said action scanner.

25   2.   The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising an event recorder adapted to
record events input to and responses output from said response script table for review by a
user at a later time.

3.   The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising an action recorder adapted to
record actions generated by said action script table for review by a user at a later time.

4. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said response script table comprises a plurality of fields including a response ID, IP source address, IP destination address and input event.

5. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said action script table comprises a plurality of fields including an action ID and action.

6. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein each action comprises an event message.

7. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said action comprises a trigger that causes said event processor to generate an event message as if received from said LAN telephony network.

8. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said event table comprises a plurality of records, each containing an IP source address, response ID and a valid indicator.

9. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said action table comprises a plurality of records, each containing an action ID and a valid indicator.

10. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said LAN telephony platform comprises an Ethernet interface, Media Access Control (MAC) layer, link layer control, IP stack and H.323 protocol stack.

11. A method for simulating a gatekeeper in a Local Area Network (LAN) telephony network, said method comprising the steps of:

> providing a LAN telephony platform adapted to provide lower layer communications including an interface to said LAN telephony network, an IP communications stack and an H.323 protocol stack;
>
> processing event messages received from and transmitted to said LAN telephony network including looking up a response ID corresponding thereto utilizing an event table; and upon occurrence of a hit,
>
> retrieving a specific response from a response script table, using the corresponding response ID, and subsequently transmitting said response onto said LAN network;
>
> cycling through a plurality of action ID pointers stored in an action table, each action pointer associated with an action to be performed; and

retrieving a specific action from an action script table, using the corresponding action
pointer, and performing each action corresponding therewith.

12.   The method according to claim 11, further comprising the step of providing a user
interface for permitting a user to preprogram the contents of said event table, said action
5   table, said response script table and said action script table.

13.   The method according to claim 11, further comprising the step of recording events
input to and responses output from said response script table for review by a user at a later
time.

14.   The method according to claim 11, further comprising the step of recording actions
10   generated by said action script table for review by a user at a later time.

15.   The method according to claim 11, wherein said response script table comprises a
plurality of fields including a response ID, IP source address, IP destination address and input
event.

16.   The method according to claim 11, wherein said action script table comprises a
15   plurality of fields including an action ID and action.

17.   The method according to claim 11, wherein each action comprises an event message.

18.   The method according to claim 11, further comprising the step of generating an event
message as if received from said LAN telephony network when said action comprises a
trigger.

20   19.   The method according to claim 11, wherein said event table comprises a plurality of
records, each containing an IP source address, response ID and a valid indicator.

20.   The method according to claim 11, wherein said action table comprises a plurality of
records, each containing an action ID and a valid indicator.

21.   The method according to claim 11, wherein said LAN telephony platform comprises
25   an Ethernet interface, Media Access Control (MAC) layer, link layer control, IP stack and
H.323 protocol stack.